

Proposal to transfer the Medical Day Care Unit from Central Middlesex Hospital to Ealing Hospital and expand sickle cell services

6 November 2025

Introduction and summary

London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNWH) currently operates a Medical Day Care Unit at Central Middlesex Hospital. A Medical Day Care Unit provides a range of nurse-led day treatments and procedures for patients under a medical consultant. Intravenous drips, infusions and injections are typical procedures delivered at a Medical Day Care Unit. These are mostly delivered as planned appointments. It is open during normal working hours (9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday), and is closed at bank holidays and weekends. We are not proposing any changes to the opening hours arrangements.

Currently, the Central Middlesex Hospital Medical Day Care Unit is provided in the same space as the sickle cell day care service. This service provides blood transfusions and pain relief for our sickle cell patients.

LNWH is committed to delivering high quality, holistic sickle cell care at Central Middlesex Hospital. The Trust has successfully secured additional funding from NHS England to expand the day care facility to better meet the needs of the local population. This includes the provisions of annual checks, regular and preventative red cell exchange and apheresis (for pain relief) when required.

LNWH has assessed options for expanding the sickle service at Central Middlesex Hospital. Concurrently, it acknowledges the significant benefits in aligning the Medical Day Care Unit to the emergency pathway. Therefore, the Trust proposes moving the Medical Day Care Unit from Central Middlesex Hospital (where there is no emergency department) to Ealing Hospital (where there is an emergency department) from the 1 February 2026. This would include transferring all staff and patients.

LNWH is planning two public involvement events to talk to local people about these proposed changes. These are planned for Monday 15 December, with the first event from 12pm – 1pm, and the second from 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

Current medical day care unit provision

The Medical Day Care Unit sees on average 250 people per month (based on activity data April 2025 – September 2025). Of these 83 are haematology patients who would continue to be seen at Central Middlesex Hospital. The remaining 171 patients would be transferred to Ealing Hospital.

Summary of service provision & average monthly volumes	Medical Day Care Unit Total	254
	Haematology	83
	Endocrinology	31
	Rheumatology	55
	Gastroenterology	47
	Other	38

Around 25% of the appointments are repeat procedures.

Why is change being proposed?

The drivers for this change are:

- **To enable expansion of Sickle Cell services at Central Middlesex Hospital.** Transferring the Medical Day Care Unit from Central Middlesex Hospital to Ealing Hospital will create space to enable sickle cell expansion. This is in line with the Trust's objectives and to meet the needs of the local sickle cell population.
- **To support the urgent care pathway at Ealing Hospital.** Currently, around five of the patients seen each day by the Same Day Emergency Care service at Ealing Hospital, undergo Medical Day Care Unit procedures and not Same Day Emergency Care. Transferring this activity to the Medical Day Care Unit (as same day appointments) would better enable the Trust to meet urgent care needs.
- **To support the discharge pathway at Ealing Hospital.** Patients requiring an infusion prior to discharge could be moved to the Medical Day Care Unit, freeing up an acute bed and improving emergency flow.

Impact on the staffing model of proposed changes

This is a nurse-led service overseen by a consultant. The team comprises of three nurses and a senior house officer. The staff changes resulting from this proposal would be:

- Three nurses currently working at Central Middlesex Hospital to transfer to Ealing Hospital.
- The senior house officer to be retained at Central Middlesex Hospital, working exclusively for the haematology service.
- Consultant oversight to be provided for the Medical Day Unit by a consultant at Ealing Hospital
- An additional four nurses to be recruited to operate the sickle cell day service at Central Middlesex Hospital (what is currently a team of three, will become a team of seven nurses).

Impact on patients

It is proposed that patients who currently receive care at the Medical Day Care Unit at Central Middlesex Hospital will be required to attend Ealing Hospital for their appointments. We would write to all patients to explain these changes.

Taking a snapshot of the patients who have attended in the last year, the breakdown of patients' registered GPs is as follows:

	Brent	Ealing	Harrow	Other	Total
Percentage	42.18%	20.70%	19.04%	18.08%	100%

Quality and equality impact assessment

LNWH has completed and approved a quality and equality impact assessment for these proposed changes. This has also been shared with the North West London ICB. Key finding from the assessment were:

- A positive impact for clinical effectiveness and staff experience.
- A negative impact for patient experience and specifically for groups with disabilities. This will be mitigated by communication and engagement, provision of transport for eligible patients (in line with NHS guidance on patient transport: [Transport and travel](#)) and the potential to explore options with community providers for alternative local care provision subject to feedback from Patient Advice and Liaison Service issues and complaints raised.
- Neutral impact in all other areas.

Financial implications

The proposal is largely financially neutral. There will be an overall increase in spend of £18,000 in 2025/26 due to the equipment purchasing that is needed to support the expanded teams. From 2026/27 the Trust would save £21,000 per annum through a reduction in the use of bank staff.

Duty to involve

We recognise the importance of meaningful and inclusive public involvement in this process, supported by appropriate articulation of the rationale and full transparency regarding the proposals.

We therefore propose:

- Formal discussion with the Brent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Two workshops onsite at Central Middlesex Hospital for local residents to discuss the proposals with our operational team and provide views and feedback. One workshop will be held in the daytime and one in the evening, in order to allow for as many participants to attend as possible.
- The option for local residents who have not been able to attend a meeting to submit feedback online
- Communications both onsite and online via website and social media channels to highlight the proposals and signpost residents to workshops and feedback mechanisms.